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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,637	03/28/2001	Gerald Sanchez	USB00 DPR ECG SY/AM	1737
466	7590	11/13/2003	EXAMINER	
YOUNG & THOMPSON			BARR, MICHAEL E	
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET 2ND FLOOR			ART UNIT	
ARLINGTON, VA 22202			PAPER NUMBER	

1762

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/818,637		<b>Applicant(s)</b> SANCHEZ ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Michael Barr		<b>Art Unit</b> 1762	
	-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --			

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2003.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments and amendments, filed 10/8/03, have been fully considered and reviewed by the examiner. In light of the amendments, the objection to the abstract and the rejections to the claimed under 35 USC 112 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-17 are pending.

The applicant has argued that the device taught or suggested by the references do not teach the claimed function equation. While the cited references (Hennechart et al. and Sato et al.) do not teach controlling the coating thickness as a function of the second derivative of the curve of the meniscus and the capillary number and exit channel characteristics, according to the claimed function equation, the structure of the apparatus suggested by Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. is the same as that claimed and thus would have been expected to have the same capabilities. The manner in which an apparatus operates is not germane to the issue of patentability of the apparatus itself (*Ex parte Wikdahl* 10 USPQ 2d 1546, 1548). The structure of the apparatus of Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. is capable of operating as claimed and thus meets the claimed requirements.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennechart et al. in view Sato et al.

Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. are applied here for the same reasons as given above and in paragraph 7 of the previous office action.

4. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Fishman et al.

Hennechart et al., Sato et al., and Fishman et al. are applied here for the same reasons as given above and in paragraph 8 of the previous office action.

5. Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennechart et al. and Sato et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Unoki et al.

Hennechart et al., Sato et al., and Unoki et al. are applied here for the same reasons as given above and in paragraph 9 of the previous office action.

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

6. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

#### *Conclusion*

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Barr whose telephone number is 703-305-7919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive Beck can be reached on 703-308-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Michael Barr  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1762

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Barr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MB  
November 5, 2003